

## **Guidelines for OVHA Coverage**

### **ITEM: NEBULIZER**

**DEFINITION:** A nebulizer is a device that mixes air and medication, to form a mist that is inhaled, for the treatment of medical conditions of the lungs and airways. The nebulizer is attached to an aerosol compressor or an ultrasonic generator to create a delivery system for the medication.

**GUIDELINES:** This device may be appropriate for the individual who:

- Has a medical condition that requires the delivery of aerosolized medications  
AND
- Those medications are covered by the Medicaid program.

A combination compressor and heater may be appropriate for the individual who:

- Meets both guidelines above AND
- It is medically necessary that the individual receives humidity during the delivery of aerosolized medications.

A large volume, self-contained ultrasonic nebulizer may be appropriate for the individual who:

- Meets both guidelines above AND
- It is medically necessary that the individual receives a large volume of misted medication.

### **APPLICABLE CODES:**

E0570 Nebulizer, with compressor.

E0571 Aerosol compressor, battery powered, for use with small volume nebulizer.

E0572 Aerosol compressor, adjustable pressure, light duty for intermittent use.

E0574 Ultrasonic/electronic aerosol generator with small volume nebulizer.

E0575 Nebulizer, ultrasonic, large volume.

E0580 Nebulizer, durable, glass or autoclavable plastic, bottle type, for use with regulator or flowmeter.

E0585 Nebulizer, with compressor and heater.

E1372 Immersion external heater for nebulizer.

**CAUTIONS:** Caution should be exercised in considering the medications that are to be used in the nebulizer, and whether these medications have been approved for use in a nebulized form. Those that are not may have substances in them which may be harmful when inhaled. There is concern regarding toxicity from prolonged use of some aerosolized antibiotics. There is also concern regarding the potential for selection of antibiotic resistant organisms with the prolonged use of aerosolized antibiotics. Caution should also be exercised regarding the potential for environmental contamination of the interior of the nebulizer, which can result in aerosolizing and subsequent inhalation of microbes (Prober, et al).

**EXAMPLES OF DIAGNOSES:** Cystic fibrosis, AIDS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, viral or bacterial pneumonia.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:**

Current, complete Certificate of Medical Necessity.

For all nebulizers: Supporting documentation demonstrating that the individual has a medical condition that requires the delivery of aerosolized medications which are covered by the Medicaid program.

For combination compressor and heaters: supporting documentation demonstrating that the individual has a medical condition that requires the delivery of aerosolized medications which are covered by Medicaid, and where it is medically necessary that the individual receives humidity during the delivery of aerosolized medications.

For large volume, self-contained ultrasonic nebulizers: supporting documentation demonstrating that the individual has a medical condition that requires the delivery of aerosolized medications which are covered by Medicaid and where it is medically necessary that the individual receives a large volume of misted medication.

**REFERENCES:**

Prober CG et al. Technical Report: Precautions regarding the use of aerosolized antibiotics. Pediatrics 2000 Dec;106(6):E89. View at [www.pediatrics.org](http://www.pediatrics.org).

Local Medical Review Policies; 14.28 Nebulizers. Tricenturion LLC, Columbia, SC. [www.tricenturion.com](http://www.tricenturion.com).

Detailed descriptions of Apria Services and Equipment. [www.apria.com](http://www.apria.com).

Craven, DE, Preventing nosocomial pneumonia: state of the art and perspectives for the 1990's. Am J Med 1991 Sep 16;91(3B):44S-53S.

**Medical Director's signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

**OVHA Director's signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**

**Revision 1:**

**Revision 2:**

**Revision 3:**